

## A NEW SPECIES OF *ACUPECTA* ELIOT (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM SULAWESI, INDONESIA

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### Abstract

*Acupicta jeffreyi* sp. n. is described and figured from Sulawesi and genus *Acupicta* Eliot is recorded from Indonesia for the first time.

### Introduction

The genus *Acupicta* Eliot has a curious, very intermittent known distribution, from northern India to the Bismarck Archipelago, Papua New Guinea.

Eliot (1973) erected *Acupicta* for the type species, *A. delicatum* (de Nicéville) from India, and *A. bubases* Hewitson from Malaysia, placing this and the genus *Catapaecilma* Butler into his tribe Catapaecilmatini. Eliot (1974) later described *A. flemingi* Eliot from a single male taken in the Genting Highlands, Malay Peninsula, as well as a similar species, *A. meeki* Eliot from New Hanover and mainland Papua New Guinea (Parsons 1998). More recently, *A. hainanicum* Sugiyama and *A. inopinatum* Schroeder & Treadaway have been described from Hainan, China (Sugiyama 1992) and Mindanao, Philippines (Schroeder and Treadaway 1998), respectively.

The new species described here is highly distinctive and represents the first record of the genus from Indonesia, although both *A. bubases* and *A. flemingi* have been taken in Malaysian Borneo, at 'Quop', Sarawak and in Sabah, respectively (Seki *et al.* 1991, Y. Seki pers. comm. 2003), suggesting that these species might also occur in Kalimantan. No members of the tribe Catapaecilmatini were recorded by Vane-Wright and de Jong (2003) in their checklist of Sulawesi butterflies.

All known *Acupicta* species are exceedingly rare in collections, most being represented by only one or two specimens taken at widely disjunct localities.

### *Acupicta jeffreyi* sp. n.

(Figs 1-2)

*Type. Holotype* ♀, INDONESIA: ~24 km south-west of Palopo, 900 m, central Sulawesi, 8.ix.2003, C. J. Müller (in Australian Museum Collection, Sydney).

*Description.* Female (Figs 1-2). Forewing length 19 mm, antenna (length undetermined as both clubs missing). Head grey with dense, light grey-brown hair tufts; antenna (shaft and nudum only) finely ringed brown and cream; labial palpus grey-brown, eyes smooth, narrowly ringed white. Thorax deep grey-brown above with fine grey hairs, brown beneath; legs red-brown, broadly ringed with cream. Abdomen grey-brown above, light brown beneath. Forewing termen strongly convex, inner margin straight; above deep brown, a

large bluish white median area extending from near inner margin to vein M<sub>3</sub> and narrowly into cell, termen and apex narrowly striated ochreous brown, cilia dark brown at cell ends, cream between; beneath ochreous brown, intensely striated with dark brown, two rows of subterminal metallic silver-blue striae, parallel to termen, an indistinct subapical dark brown band, more defined towards termen and bound by metallic silver-blue spots, a similar band in median area, offset towards termen below vein CuA<sub>1</sub>, subcostal area with abundant metallic silver-blue spots. Hindwing distinctly toothed at vein M<sub>3</sub> and with a 'false' tornus at vein 3A, with white-tipped tails at vein CuA<sub>1</sub> (5 mm), CuA<sub>2</sub> (4 mm) and vein 1A + 2A (1.5 mm); above medium uniform brown, termen with ochreous striations, tornus with margin metallic silver-blue and with subterminal spots of similar colouring below vein CuA<sub>2</sub>, cilia dark brown at vein ends, cream between; beneath ochreous brown with dense fine dark brown striae, termen silver-blue at tornus with large black subternal spot between veins CuA<sub>1</sub> and CuA<sub>2</sub>, edged with silver-blue, row of silver blue subterminal spots parallel to termen, postmedian row of silver-blue spots swinging towards base near to costa, series of very irregular black and metallic silver-blue spots in median and basal areas including arcuate pair largely filled with black.

Male. Unknown.

*Etymology.* The new name honours the author's father, Jeffrey, who provided financial support for research in Indonesia prior to 1999.

*Comments.* *Acupicta jeffreyi* sp. n. is distinctive in having an underside pattern resembling that of *A. bubases* from Malaysia, but the black markings are very finely striated and the obscure bands in the subapical and inner margin areas of the forewing are straight, while in *A. bubases* these bands are offset toward the termen. The underside of *A. inopinatum* is less intricately marked than in *A. jeffreyi* and the arcuate black and metallic silver markings in the median area of the hindwing underside are almost touching, while in *A. jeffreyi* they are widely spaced. *A. inopinatum* bears a series of large brown subapical spots on the hindwing underside, which are absent in *A. jeffreyi*. Additionally, the hindwing upperside of *A. jeffreyi* does not bear a blue basal-median patch as in *A. inopinatum*.

No biological information appears to have been published for the genus *Acupicta*. The unique specimen of *A. jeffreyi* was notably inconspicuous as it fluttered several metres above the ground in very dense lower montane rainforest with little understory.

It is likely that known and undescribed *Acupicta* species will be discovered in the intervening region between Sulawesi and mainland New Guinea. A similar disjunctive distribution is known for the lycaenid genus *Artipe* Boisduval.



**Figs 1-2.** *Acupicta jeffreyi* sp. n., holotype female. (1) upperside; (2) underside. Scale bar = 5 mm.

### Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank John Tennent (London) for providing relevant literature and Vicki Savvas, who acted as research assistant while in Indonesia. Mr Yasuo Seki kindly provided distributional information on *Acupicta* in Borneo.

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